

**Hurricane Harvey Response 2017
Community Liaison (CL) Report**

TO: Janetta Coates and Valmichael Leos

FROM: David Bryan/Jeremy Ford/Devin Pollock/Jim Stevens

SUBJECT: Hurricane Harvey Response 2017

COUNTY: Jasper and Newton Counties

DATE: 9/14/17

SUMMARY:

The team traveled to Jasper, Texas and met with Judge Mark Allen who said he appreciated our efforts and had been getting good reports from staff.

We also were able to sit down with the Jasper-Newton County Health District, including Dr. Danny Brechan, the director, and Angela Berry, environmental services coordinator. They talked with us about the well test kits that they are offering to residents for \$25. While none have been distributed, they said they distributed more than 200 during the May 2016 floods.

There was also concern that Jasper County was no longer going to receive mosquito spraying due to local social media protests by beekeepers and naturalists. Health officials believe that not enough education and information was shared to residents prior to spraying. Newton County will be sprayed sometime in the next 48 hours, according to Jasper County officials.

The Health District is still very much interested in having a Disaster Response Center in Jasper County to allow more information to be shared with residents.

The health officials recommended we talk to the Sabine River Authority, the Angeline-Naches River Authority and the Newton County Floodplain Management Group. Both river authorities are going to be conducting the analysis of private well sampling over the next few weeks.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The Health Department asked if we had any brochures or information regarding aerobic treatment systems. They have questions regarding how to decontaminate systems that failed during the storm and flooding. Does EPA or TCEQ have documents explaining how to get the aerobic systems up and running properly?

If Jasper/Newton are afforded a Disaster Response Center, the team is ready to staff it with brochures and flyers already available.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Roads, bridges and infrastructure continues to be a concern in both counties with many of the roads that are normally used for school bus routes in need of drastic repair after being washed out by extensive flooding.

Additionally, southern areas are just now entering recovery phase after see the rivers recede in the last 36 hours.

As always, thanks for listening and your possible attention to these issues.

David, Jim, Jeremy and Devin